I CAME TO RETURN THE SCREWDRIVER.
WHAT? TO RETURN IT? WHY?

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS WEIRDO TALKING ABOUT?

THIS ISN'T A PAWN SHOP, IT'S A TRADING CENTER...

AH, ARE YOU SAYING YOU WISH TO CANCEL YOUR APPLICATION?
SINCE I DIDN'T EXPLAIN THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS PROPERLY TO YOU, YOU ARE ALLOWED TO CANCEL THE CONTRACT WITHIN THREE MONTHS... SHOOT... (SWEATING)

AS I EXPECTED,
IT WAS SOME KIND OF WEIRD ORGANIZATION.

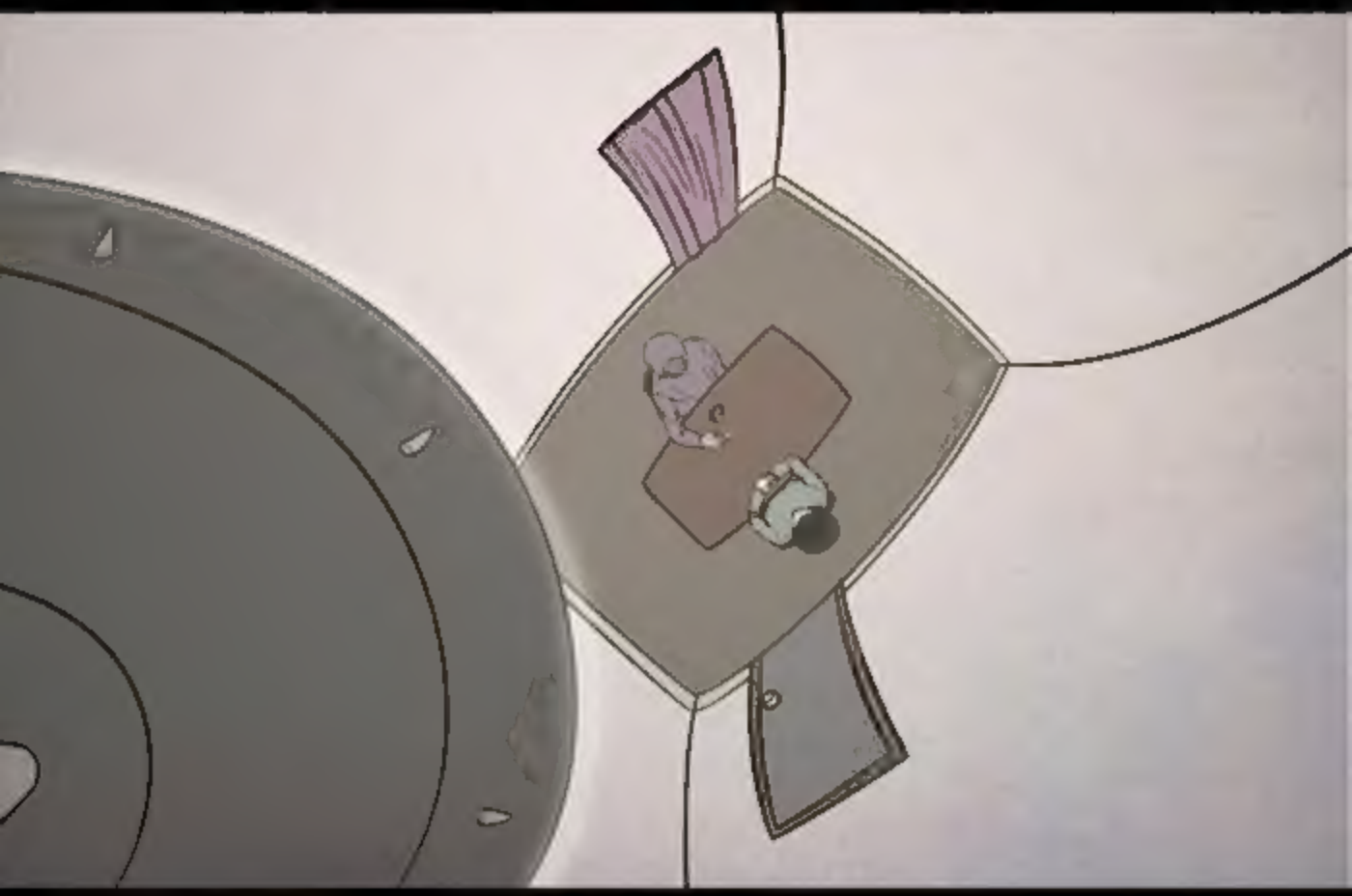
I GOT CURIOUS AS TO WHAT KIND OF STUFF HE WOULD TRY TO SELL ME.

I DIDN'T REALLY HAVE ANYTHING TO DO

SINCE I WAS A COMPLETE BUM.

THE MAN BEGAN EXPLAINING THAT THIS PLACE IS A LIFESPAN TRADING CENTER,

CREATED AND OPERATED WHENEVER SOMEONE NEEDS IT.



HE SAID THAT I CAN OBTAIN ANYTHING I WANT
IN RETURN FOR GIVING PART OF MY LIFESPAN.

MONEY, LOOKS, KNOWLEDGE. ANYTHING.
AND THE MORE VALUABLE THE THING I WANT,
THE MORE OF MY LIFESPAN THAT I HAVE TO GIVE.

*APPROX. $2.20

ONLY 5,000 WON FOR AN HOUR OF MY LIFE?

I GUESS MY LIFE ISN'T EVEN WORTH MINIMUM WAGE.

SO, I CAN TRADE FOR ANYTHING I WANT? NO MATTER WHAT IT IS?
THAT'S RIGHT. ALMOST ANYTHING. SINCE YOU'RE PAYING WITH YOUR OWN LIFE.

OF COURSE I DIDN'T BELIEVE HIM.

GET ME A
NEW TV. A BIG ONE.
OVER FORTY INCHES.

I DIDN'T BELIEVE HIM. I JUST SAID WHATEVER

CAME TO MIND SINCE I COULDN'T BELIEVE HIM.

FIRST, PUT THIS ON.
THIS FREE GIFT WILL SHOW YOU HOW MUCH OF YOUR LIFE YOU HAVE LEFT.
RED TO PURPLE.
IT STARTS RED AND ENDS WITH PURPLE.

I STILL DIDN'T BELIEVE HIM.

ONLY AN IDIOT WOULD BELIEVE THIS KIND OF THING.

IT WAS A
PLEASURE DOING
BUSINESS WITH YOU.
COME AGAIN.

BUT NO MATTER HOW HARD

SOMETHING IS TO BELIEVE,

WHEN YOU SEE IT WITH YOUR OWN EYES,

IT TENDS TO SHAKE YOUR CERTAINTY.

HOW? DID HE HAVE IT PREPARED IN ADVANCE?

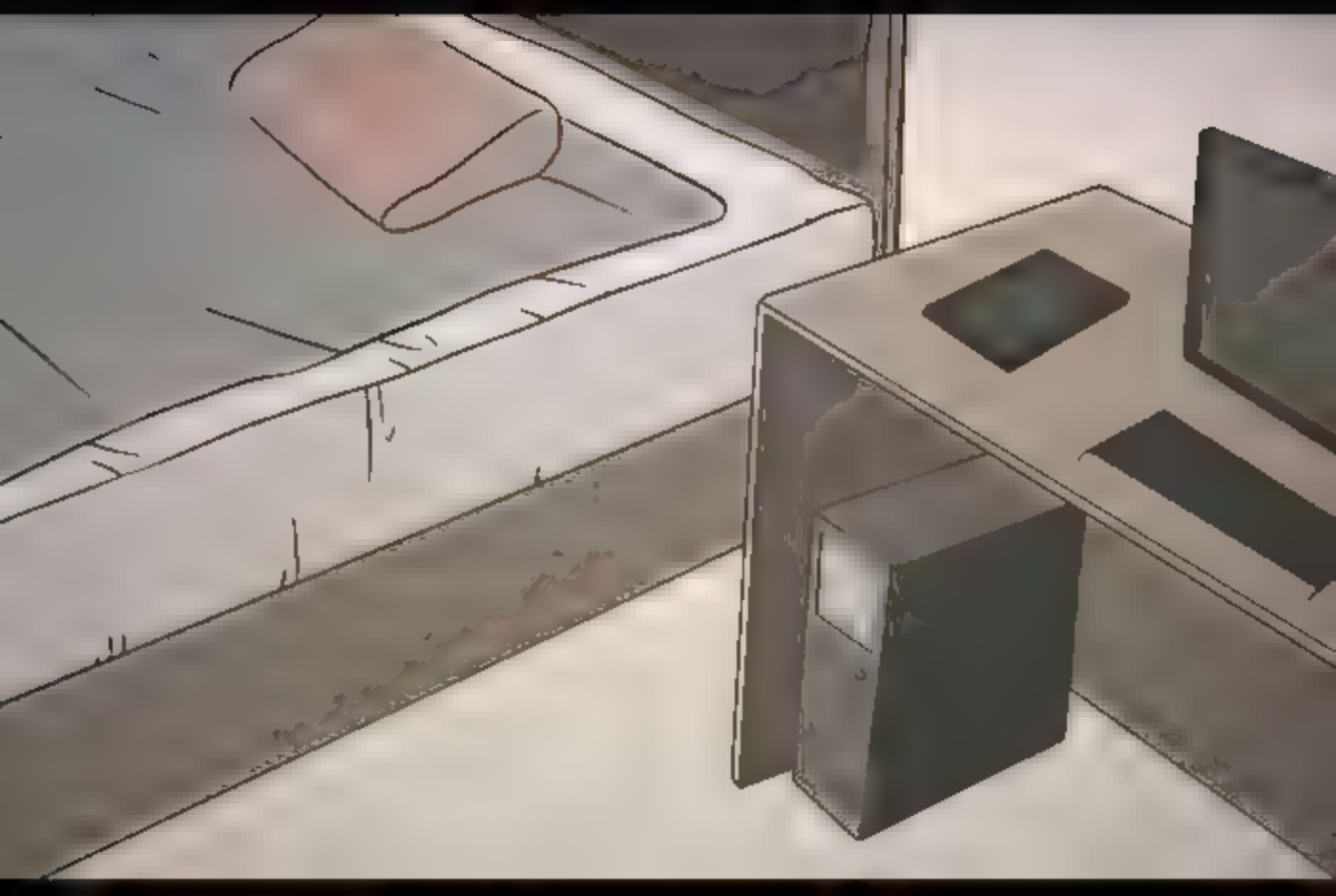
NO, HOW COULD HE ALREADY KNOW
WHAT I'M GOING TO SAY

AND PREPARE THIS IN ADVANCE?

FRIDAY
FORBIDDEN TALES
禁曜日

FOR SEVERAL DAYS AFTER THAT,
I TESTED HIM A FEW TIMES.

GIVE ME A COMPUTER, A MYPAD,
A SILK PILLOW, ETC.



RELENTLESSLY.
I GOT EVERYTHING I ASKED FOR.

ALL I HAD TO DO WAS SAY THE WORD
AND IT WAS MINE.

I COULDN'T DENY IT ANY MORE.

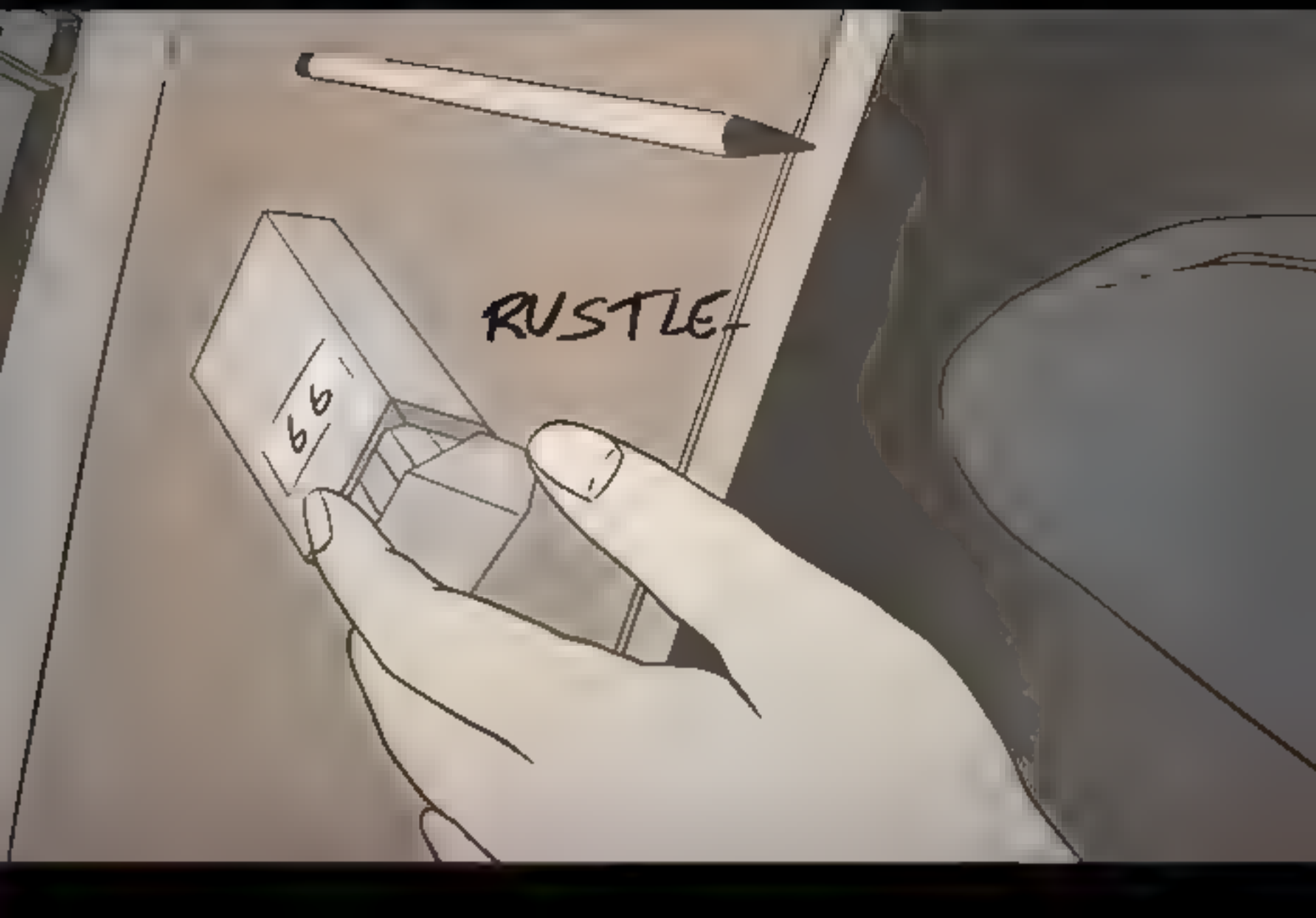
THIS IS REAL. IT'S REAL AND TRUE.

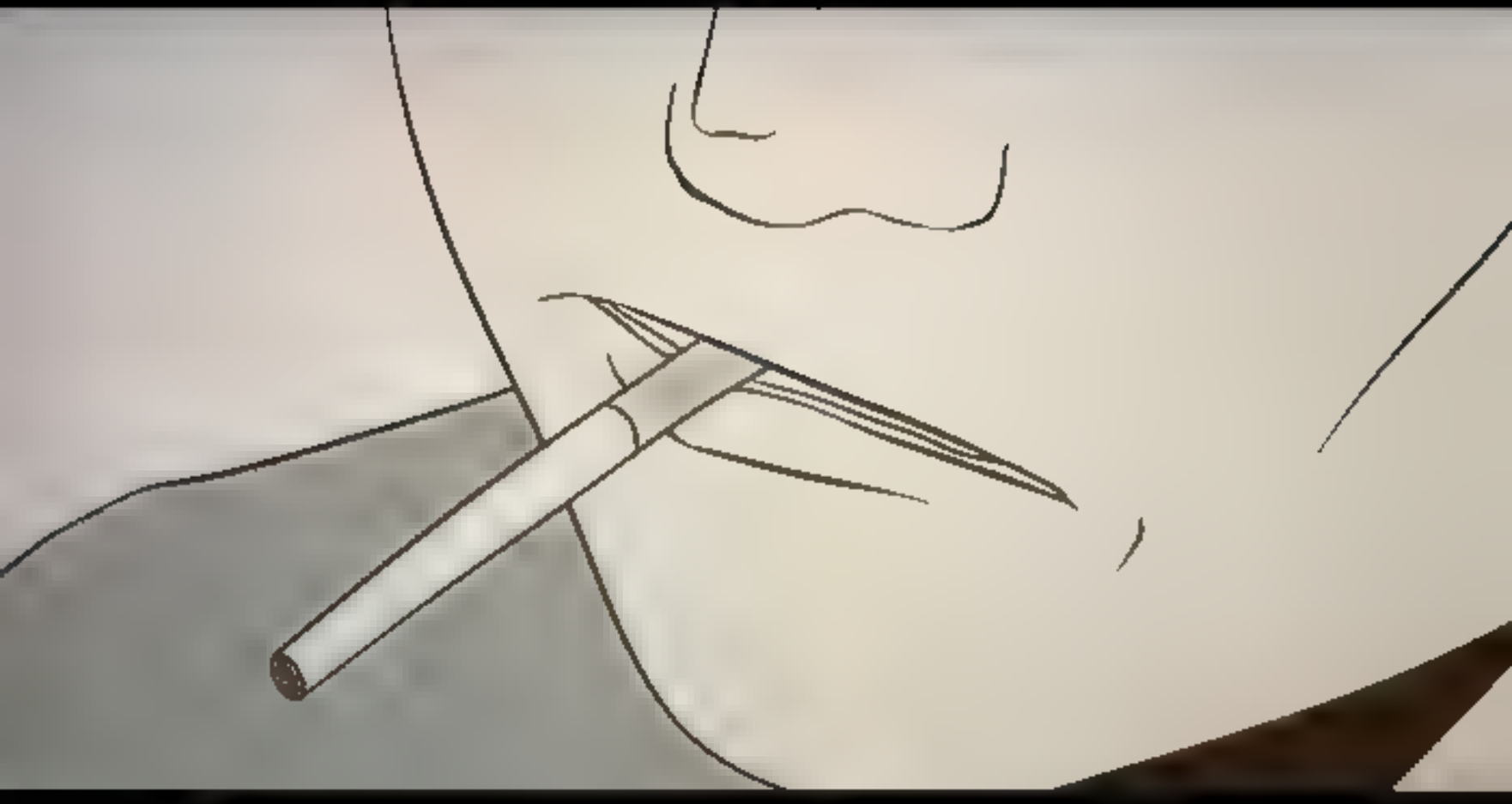
I'M BUYING THINGS WITH MY OWN LIFE.

WAIT, IS THIS REALLY OKAY?

SHOULD I BE DOING THIS?

WILL SELLING MY LIFE LIKE THIS
CAUSE ANY PROBLEMS?





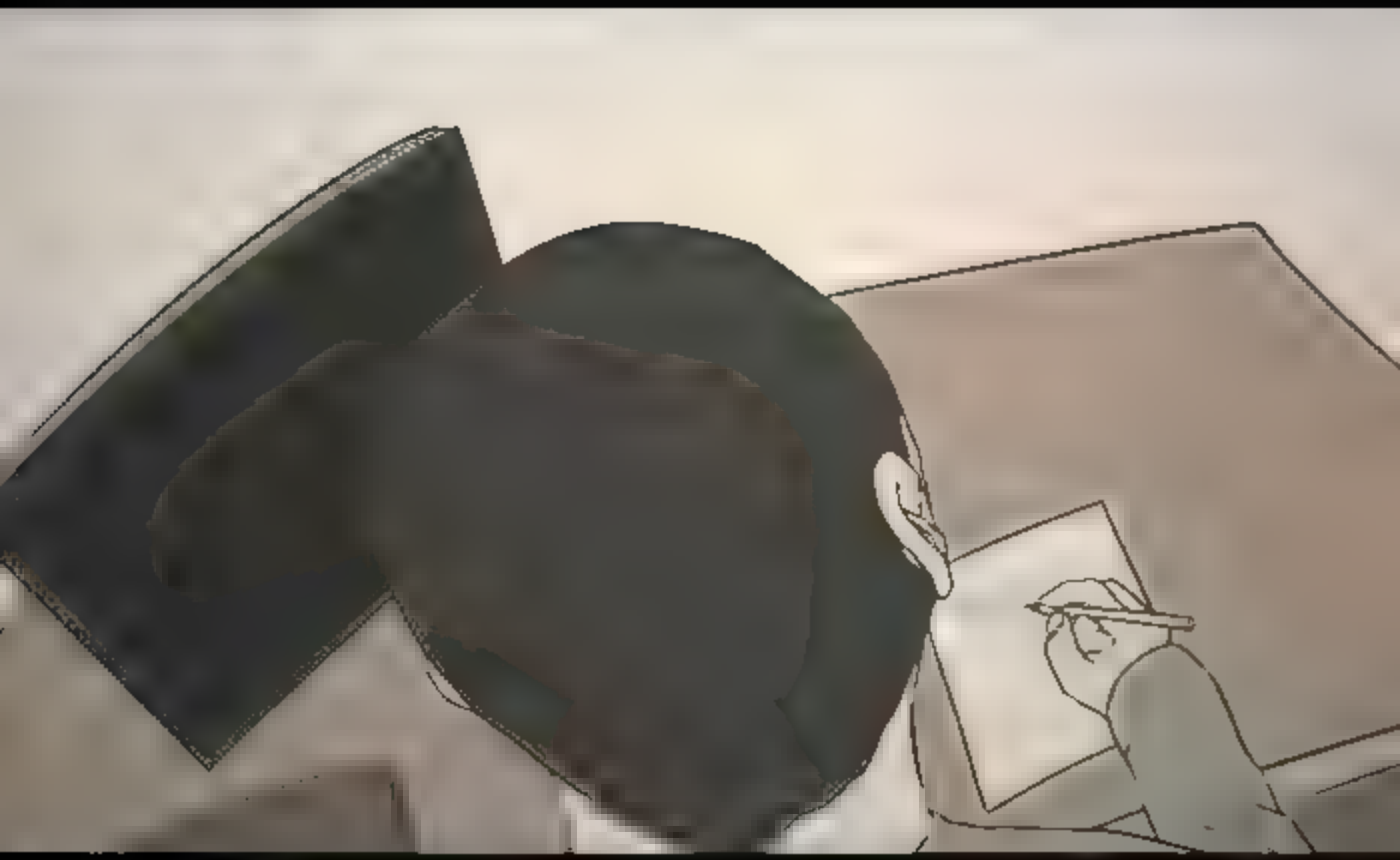
MY LIFE, TO BE FRANK, WAS WORTHLESS.

YOU SHOULD BUY SOMETIMES TOO, MAN.
THAT WILL BE 48,000 WON.
.....

I WASN'T SMART OR GOOD-LOOKING.

EVEN STILL,
I DIDN'T HAVE THE MOTIVATION TO OVERCOME THIS,
AND I WASN'T A VERY LUCKY PERSON.

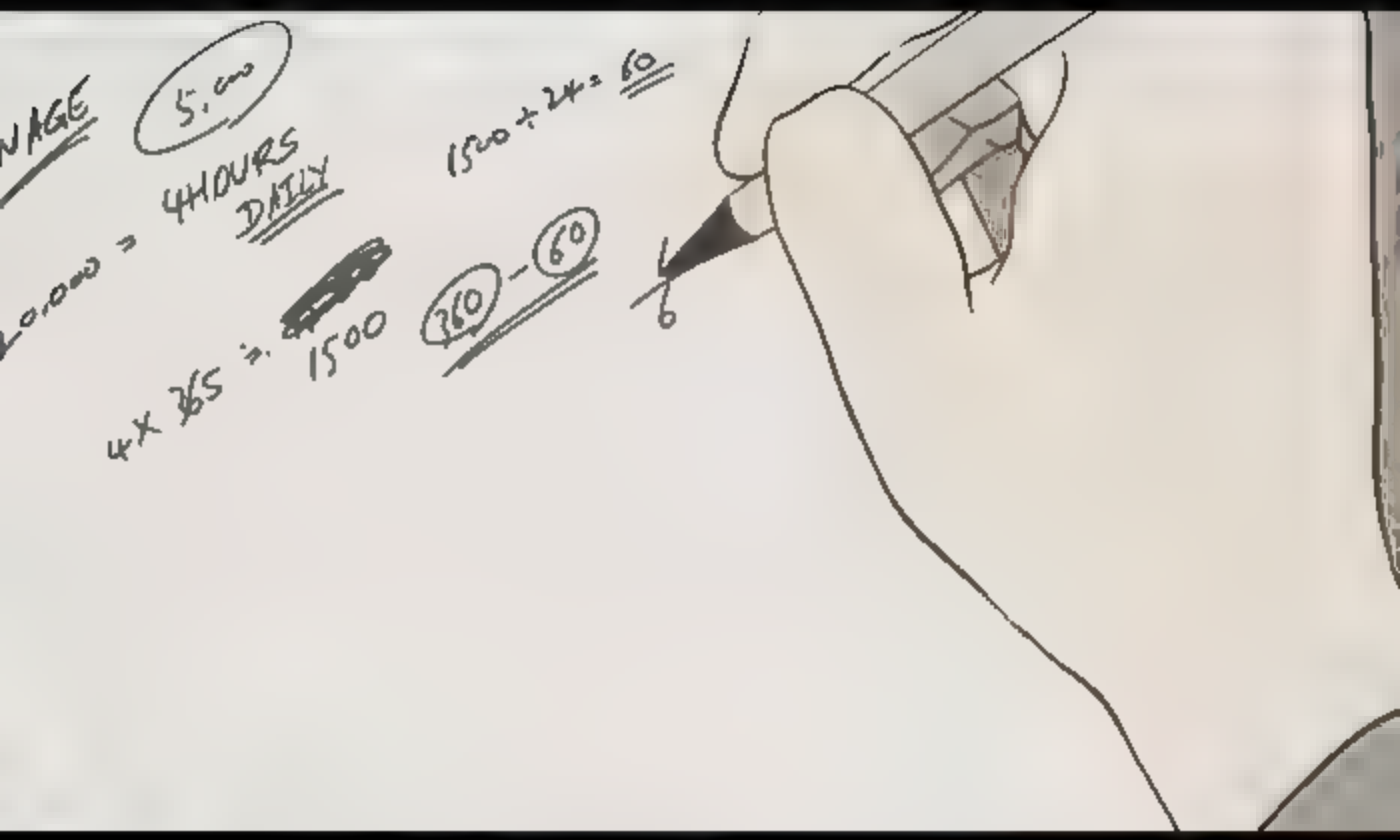
I JUST TRIED TO GET THROUGH EACH DAY SINCE
I DIDN'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO THROW IT ALL AWAY.



IF I PAY AROUND 20,000 WON

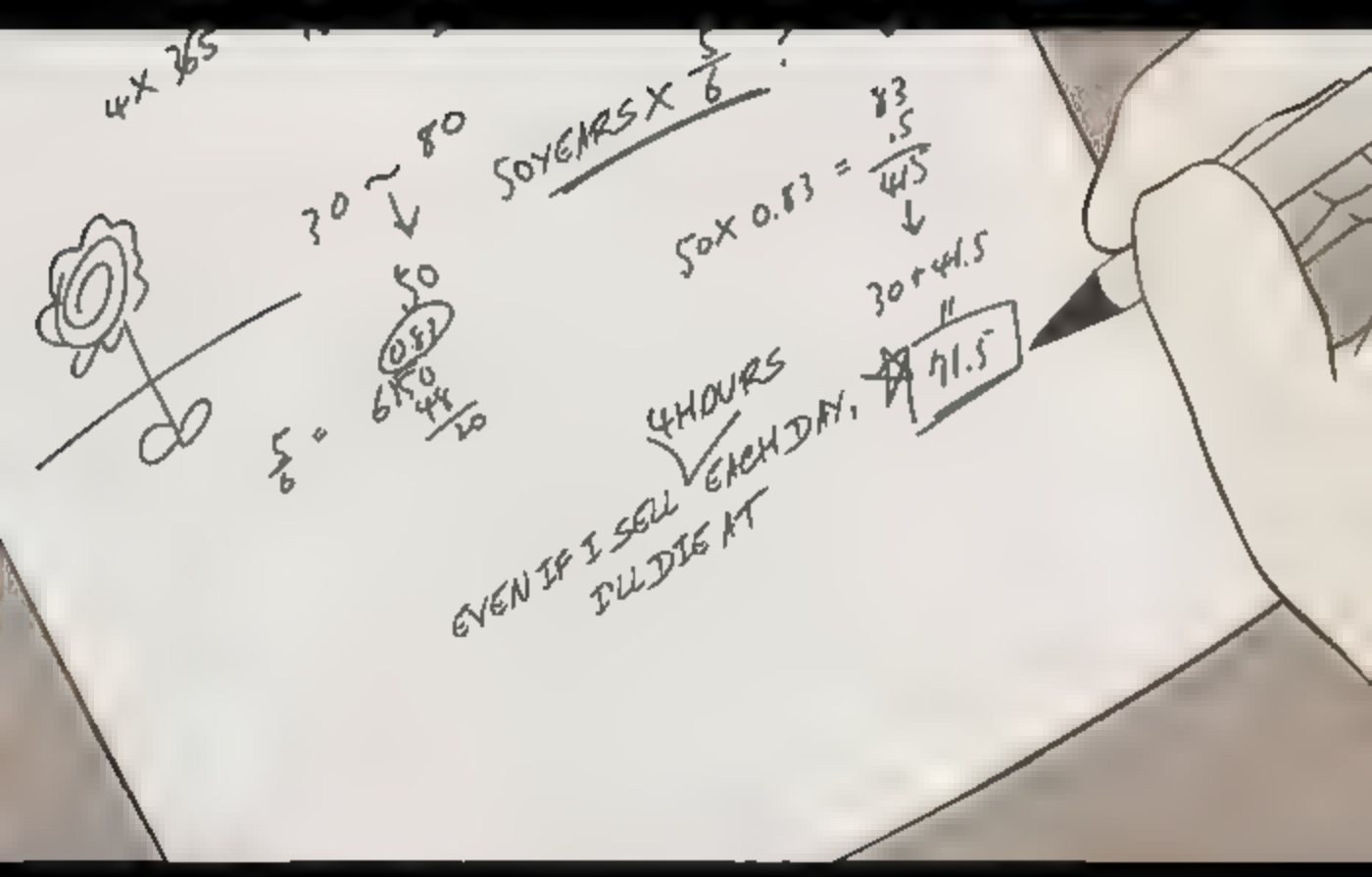
EACH DAY FOR FOOD AND CIGARETTES,

MY LIFESPAN DECREASES BY FOUR HOURS.



THAT'S JUST 1500 HOURS IN A YEAR.
IN OTHER WORDS,
I LOSE SIXTY DAYS OF MY LIFE.

THAT'S A SIXTH OF AROUND 360 DAYS,
SO IF I ASSUME THAT I LIVE TO BE EIGHTY,
I HAVE ROUGHLY FIFTY YEARS LEFT.



SINCE I'M SUBTRACTING A SIXTH
OF MY REMAINING FIFTY YEARS...

EVEN IF I GO THERE EVERY DAY FOR MY MEALS,
I COULD LIVE TO BE SEVENTY-ONE.

SEVENTY-ONE...

THIS IS...

I CAN GO MY ENTIRE LIFE WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT FOOD BY JUST SELLING NINE YEARS OF MY LIFE?

MY LIFE IS WORTHLESS ANYWAY, SO HOW COULD THIS DEAL POSSIBLY GET ANY BETTER?

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.

BUT THINGS DIDN'T WORK OUT LIKE I HAD PLANNED.

SINCE PEOPLE CAN'T LIVE ON BREAD ALONE,

OR RATHER, IT'S JUST SO EASY TO HAND OVER

MY INTANGIBLE 'LIFESPAN' TO PUT

SOMETHING IN MY HAND RIGHT NOW.

I'LL JUST SAVE TOMORROW

AS MUCH AS I OVERSPENT TODAY.

I JUST WON'T USE AS MUCH AS I SPLURGED TODAY.

SLUUURP-
AH-
THIS IS GOOD. IT'S A WHOLE DIFFERENT CLASS OF BOOZE. I SHOULD HAVE IT TWICE A WEEK.

IT BECAME A HABIT TO SAY
'I'LL HAVE TO SAVE SOME TOMORROW,'
'I SHOULDN'T SPEND ANYTHING TOMORROW.'
BUT OF COURSE THERE WAS
NO CHANCE OF THAT HAPPENING.

BECAUSE,

THIS 'TOMORROW' THAT THE ME FROM 'YESTERDAY'

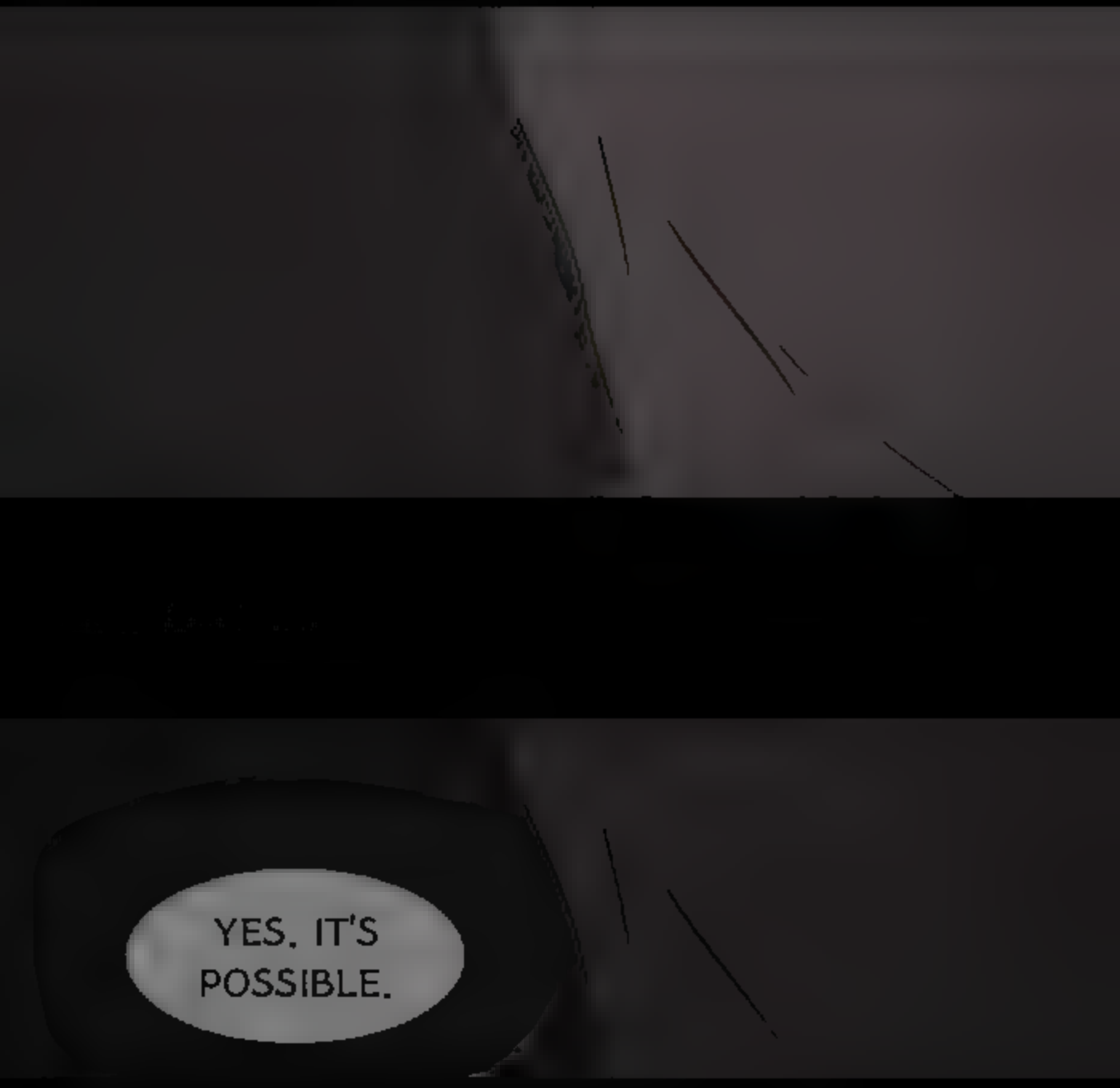
CLUNG TO LIKE A RELIGIOUS BELIEF IS JUST

ANOTHER WORD FOR 'TODAY' THAT I'M WASTING.

IF I HAD STUCK TO THAT INITIAL DETERMINATION,

I WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN MYSELF INTO THIS MESS.

IS IT ALSO POSSIBLE TO GET... A WOMAN?


YES. IT'S POSSIBLE.

ONE DAY, AS I WASTED YESTERDAY,

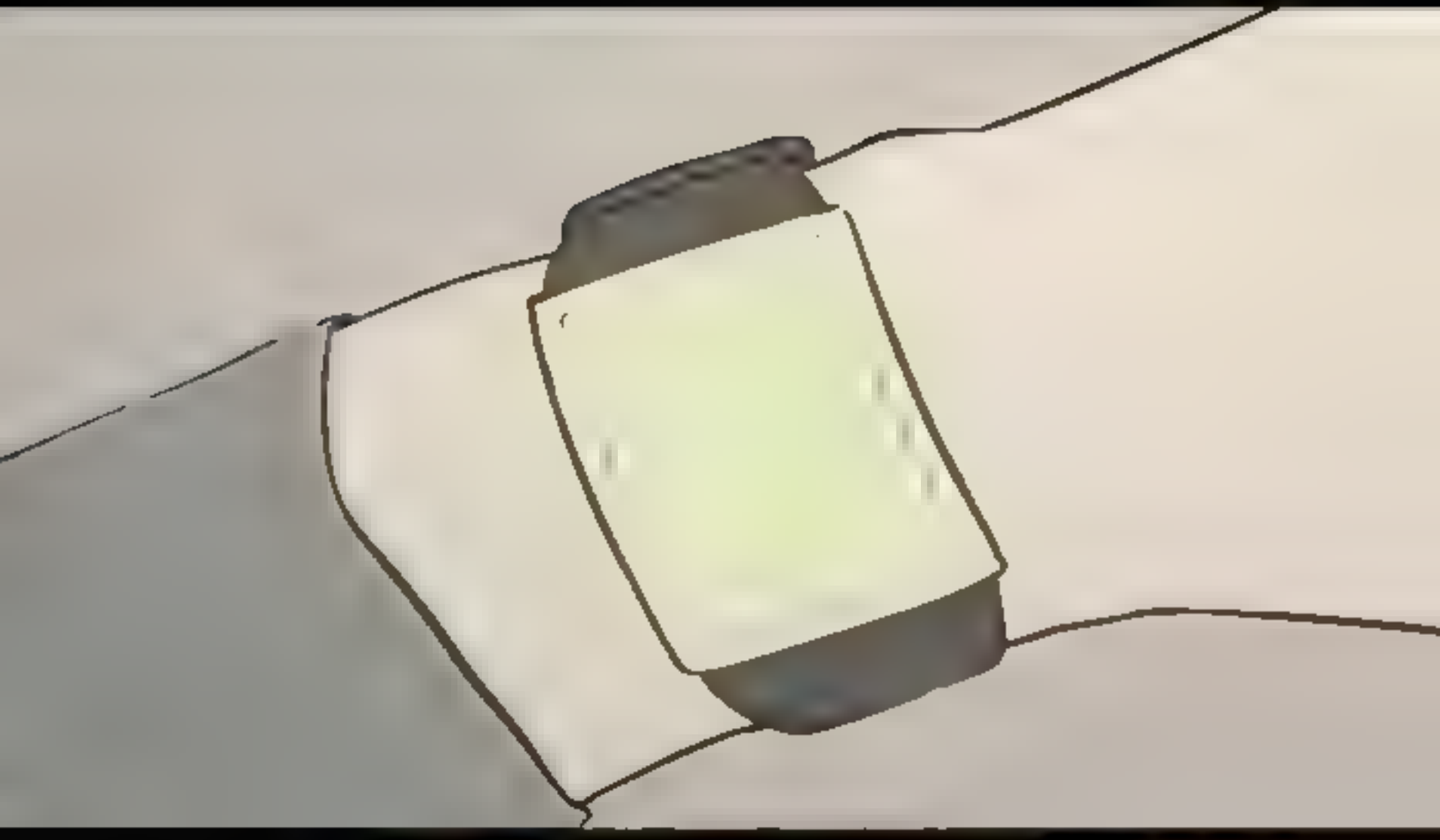
TODAY AND TOMORROW,

HUH?
LIGHT GREEN??

SEEING IT WITH
MY OWN EYES SUDDENLY SCARED ME.

I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WHEN
I WAS SPENDING MINDLESSLY,

BUT THANKFULLY,
THE 'GIFT' FROM THE TRADER ALERTED ME.



AT THIS RATE,

I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO AVOID DYING YOUNG EITHER.

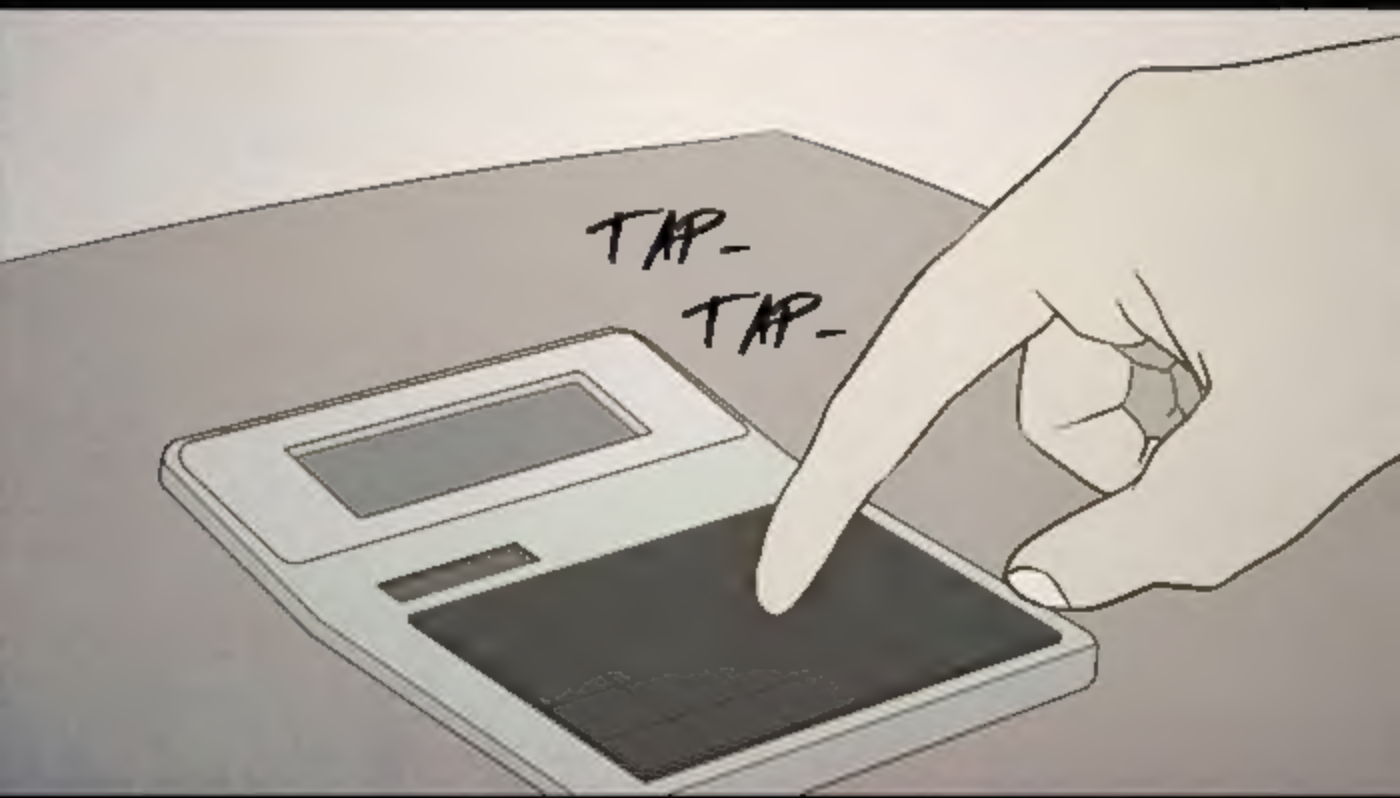
I GOT SCARED.

I CHECKED MY CALCULATIONS AGAIN.

IN ORDER TO CHANGE MY LIFE,

WHICH I HAD BEEN DEDUCTING LIKE MONTHLY RENT,

INTO A LEASE.



OUR ELDERS ARE RIGHT.
YOU'LL NEVER BECOME RICH
AS LONG AS YOU PAY MONTHLY RENT.

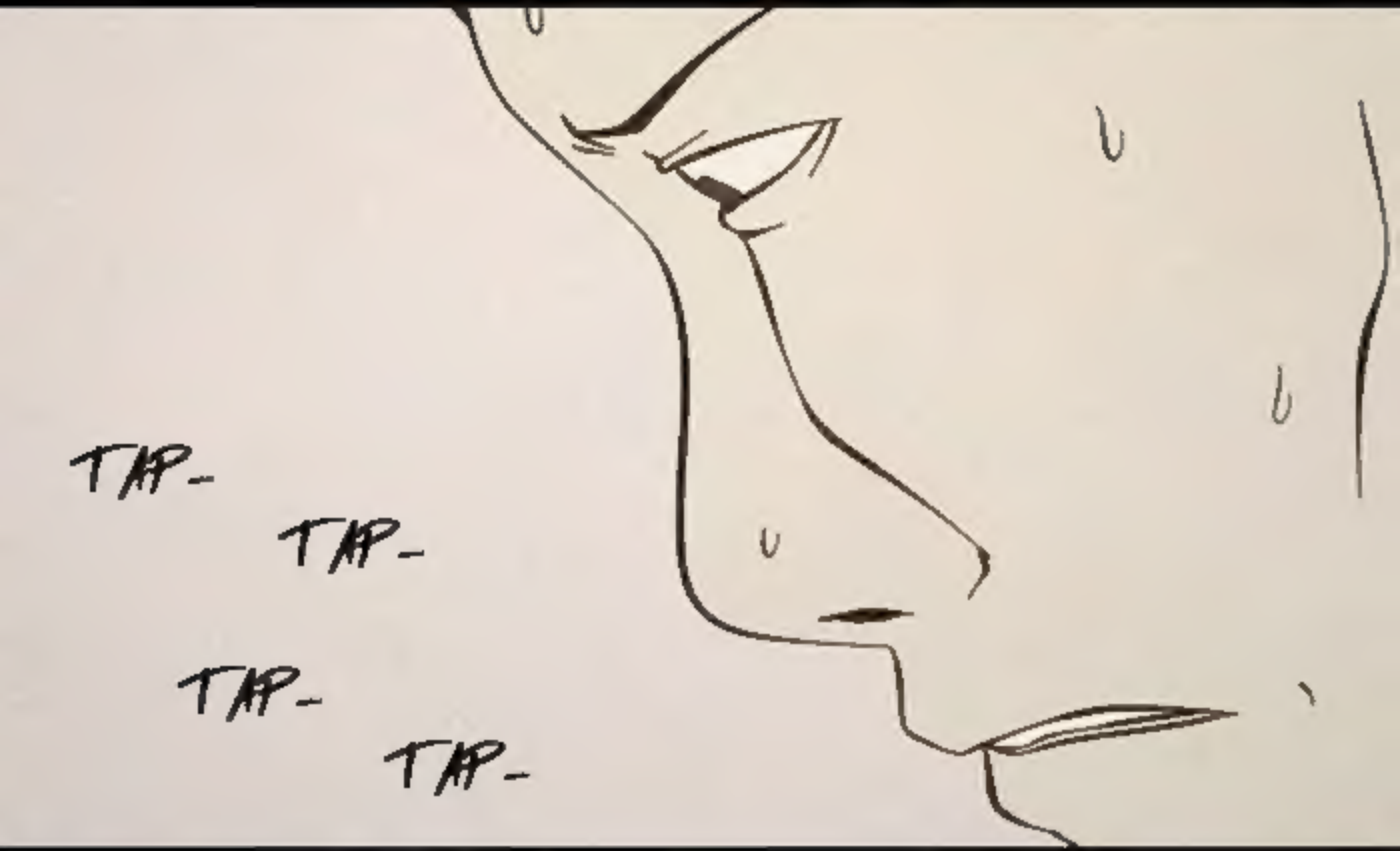
YOU NEED TO DO EVERYTHING
IT TAKES TO GET YOURSELF A LEASE,
THEN YOU CAN START SAVING.

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU CAN STAY ALIVE.

BUT UNFORTUNATELY,

EVEN WHILE I WAS TRYING
MY BEST TO DO THE CALCULATIONS,

I FAILED TO REALIZE WHY THERE ARE
ALSO LOTS OF GENIUSES AND BEAUTIES



WHO DO NOT DIE YOUNG.

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